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LAWFULNESSE

OF,

OUR EXPEDITION INTO

ENGLAND

MANIFESTED.



Printed, first in SCOTLAND, by Robert Bryson, and now Reprinted
in ENGLAND, by Margery Mac-Prelat. 1640.

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*Collegii Emmanuelis
Siles.*



THE
LAWFVLNESSE
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From the beginning till this time, we have attempted nothing *presumptuously* in this great Worke of *Reformation*, but have proceeded upon good grounds, and have been led forward by the good hand of God: So now, from our own perswasion, we are ready to Answer every one that asketh us a Reason of this our present Expedition, which is one of the greatest and most notable parts of this wonderfull Worke of God, beseeching all to lift up their minds above their own particulars, and without prejudices or partiality to lay to heart the Considerations following.

I. As all men know and confesse, what is the great force of *religion*, and how it doth justify actions otherwayes unwarrantable: So it can be not be denied, but we must either seek our *peace* in *England* at this time, or live under these heauy *burdens*, which we are not able to beare. First, we must maintain Armies on the Borders, and all places nearest so hazarded, for the defence and preservation of our Countrey, which by our laying down of Arms, and abandoning of our Forts

should be quickly over-rune by hostile Invasions, and the inductions of our enemies. Secondly, we shall want all Trade by Sea, which would not only deprive the Kingdome of many necessities, but also of our Riches, Merchants, Mariners, and many others who live by Fishing and by commodities exported, and imported, and whose particular callings are utterly made voyd by want of summer with other Nations and Sea-trade. Thirdly, the Subjects through the whole Kingdome shall want administration of Justice: and although this time past, the marvelous power and providence of God hath kept the Kingdome in order and quietnesse without ordinary Judicatories sitting, yet cannot this be expected for afterward, but all shall turne to confusion. Any one of the three, much more all of them put together, threaten us with most certaine ruine, unlesse we speedily use the remedy of this Expedition. And this we say, not from *fear*, but from *feeling*: for we have already *felt* to our unspeakable prejudice, what it is to maintain Armies, what to want *Justice*, what to want administration of Justice. And if the beginning of those evils be so heavy, what shall the growth and long continuance of them prove unto us; So miserable a being, all men would judge to be worse then no being.

¶ I. If we consider the nature and quality of this Expedition, it is *defensive*, and so the more justifiable. For prooffe hereof, let it be remembred: 1. The Kings Majesty, misled by the crafty and cruell Faction of our adversaries, began this years warre, not we. When Articles of *Pacification* had been the other yeare agreed upon, Armes layed down, Forts and Castles rendered, an Assembly kept and concluded with the presence and consent of his Majesties High Commissioner, the promised ratification thereof in Parliament (contrary to the *forfeited Articles*) was denyed unto us. And when we would have informed his Majesty by our Commissioners, of the Reasons and manner of our proceedings they got not so much as presence or audience. Thereafter his Majesty being content to heare them, before that they came to Court or were heard, warre was concluded against us at the Councell table of England, and a Commission given to the Earle of Northumberland for that effect: The Parliament of Ireland and England were also convocat. for granting Subsidies unto this warre against us, as it notour: plots have been hatched, and military preparations made against us; many invasions by Sea, which have spoiled

spoiled us of our Ships and goods: Men, Women, and Children; sold in Edinburgh by his Majesties Forces in the Castle: Our enemies therefore are the authors and beginners of the warre, and we defenders onely. 2. We intend not the hurt of others, but our own peace and preservation: neither are we to offer any injury or violence: And therefore have furnished our selves according to our power with all necessaries, not to fight at all, except we be forced to it in our own defence, as our Declaration beares it. 3. We shall retire and lay down our Arms, as soon as we shall get a sure peace, & shalbe satisfied in our just demands. Upon which ground even some of those who would seem the greatest Royalists, hold the warres of the Protestants in France against the King and the Faction of the Guisards to have been lawfull defensive wars, because they were ever ready to disband and quiet themselves when they got assurance of peace, and liberty of Religion. Now this present Expedition being in the nature of it defensive, hence it appeareth, that it is not contrary, but consonant to our former protestations, Informations, and Remonstrances: In all which, there is not one word against defensive warres in this cause: but strong reasons for it, all which militate for this Expedition. Our first Information sent to England this yeare, though it accuseth all offensive or invasive warre, yet sheweth plainly, that if we be invaded either by Sea or Land, we must doe as a man that fighteth himselfe out of prison. If a private man, when his house is blocked up, so that he can have no libertie of commerce and traffique to supply himselfe and his Family, being also in a continuall hazard of his life, not knowing when he shall be assaulted by his enemies who lye in wait against him, may in this case most lawfully Resist with the Forces which he can make, and fight himselfe free: Of how much more worth is the whole Nation: and how shall one and the same way of defence and liberation be allowed to a privat man, and disallowed to a Nation?

III. Thirdly, we are called to this Expedition by that same divine providence and occasion which hath guided us hitherto in this great busines. We see the Expediencie of it, for the glory of God, for the good of the Church, for advancing the Gospel, for our own peace, after seeking of God, and begging light and direction from Heaven, our hearts are inclined to it, God hath given us zeal and courage to prosecute it, ability and opportunity for under-taking it, Instruments fitted for it, unanimous resolution upon it, scruples removed out of minds.

minds where they were harboured, encouragemets to achieve it from many passages of *divine providence*, and namely from the proceedings of the last Parliament in England, their grievances and desires being so homogeneous and a kinne to ours, we have laboured in great long-suffering by *Supplications, Informations, Remonstrances*, and all other meanes possible to avoid this *Expedition*: It was not premeditated nor affected by us (G O D knows) but our enemies have necessitate and redacted us unto it, and that of purpose to sow the seed of Nationall quarrels; yet as G O D hitherto hath turned all their plots against themselves, and to effects quite contrary to those that they intended: so are we hopefull, that our going into England, so much wished and desired by our adversaries for producing a Nationall quarrell, shall so farre disappoint them of their hopes, that it shall link the two Nations together in *stricter and stronger bonds* both of civill and Christian love, then ever before.

And thus we may see yet further evidences of a calling from G O D to this *voyage*, we may observe the order of the *Lords* steps and proceedings in this Worke of *Reformation*. For, beginning at the grosse Popery of the Service Booke and Booke of Canons, he hath followed the back trade of our defection, till he hath reformed the very first and smallest Novations, which entered in this Church. But so it is that this back trade leadeth yet further, to the Prelacy in England, the fountain: whence all those Babilonish streams issue unto us: The Lord therefore is still on the back trade, and we following him therein, can not yet be at a stay. Yea, we trust, that he shall so follow forth this trade, as to chase home the Beast and the false prophet to Rome and from Rome out of the world. Besides, this third consideration resulteth from the former two; for if this Expedition be necessary, and if it be *defensible*, then it followeth inevitably, that we are called unto it, for our necessary defence is granted, yea commanded by the Law of G O D and Nature, and we are obliged to it in our Covenant.

IV. Fourthly, the lawfulness of this Expedition appeareth: if we consider the party against whom; which is not the Kingdome of England, but the *Countervailing Faction* of *Papists, Atheists, Anabaptists, Prelates*, the misleaders of the Kings Majestie, and the common enemies of both Kingdomes. We persuade our selves that our Brethren and neighbours in England will never be so evil advised, as to make themselves a party against us by their *defence* and *protection* of our enemies among

among them, as sometime the *Benjamites* made themselves a party against the *Israelites*, by defending the *Gibeahites* in their wicked cause, *Judg.* 20. We pray GOD to give them the wisdom of the wise woman in *Abel*, who when *Isaac* came neare to her City with an Army, found out a way which both kepted *Isaac* from being an enemy to the City, and the City from being an enemy to him, 2 *Sam.* 20. As touching the provision and Furniture of our Army in *England*, it shall be such as is used among Friends, not among enemies: The rule of *humanity* and *gratitude* will teach them to furnish us with *necessaries*, when as beside the procuring of our own *peace*, we doe good offices to them. They detest (we know) the churlishness of *Nabal*, who refused victuals to *David* and his men, who had done them good and no evil, 1 *Sam.* 20. And the inhumanity of the men of *Suphath* and *Pennah*, who stayed bread to *Gideons* Army, when he was persuing the common enemies of all *Israel*, *Judg.* 8. But let the *English* doe of their benevolence what *humanity* and *discretion* will teach them; For our own part, our Declaration sheweth, that we seek not *victuals* for nought, but for *money* or *security*: And if this should be refused (which we shall never expect) it were as damnable as the barbarous cruelty of *Edom* and *Moad*, who refused to let *Israel* passe through their Countrey, or to give them bread and water in any case, *Numb.* 20. *Judg.* 11. and this offence the Lord accounted so inexpiable, that for it he accursed the *Edomites* and *Moadites* from entering into the Congregation of the Lord unto the tenth generation, *Deut.* 23. 3. 4.

V. The Fifth *consideration* concerneth the end for which this voyage is under-taken. We have attested the *searchers of hearts*. It is not to execute any disloyall act against the Kings Majesty, It is not to put forth a cruell or vindictive hand against our adversaries in *England*, whom we desire only to be judged and censured by their own Honourable and high Court of Parliament; It is not to enrich our selves with the wealth of *England*, nor to doe any harme thereto. But by the contrary, we shall gladly bestow our paines and our meanes to doe them all the good we can, which they might justly look for at our hands, for the help which they made us at our *Reformation*, in freeing us from the *French*, a bond of *peace* and *love* betwixt them and us to all Generations. Our Conscience, and GOD who is greater then our Conscience beareth us record, that we ayme altogether at the glory of GOD, *peace* of both Nations, and

and house of the King, in suppressing and punishing in a legal way of those who are the troublers of *Israel*, the fire-brands of hell, the *Keraks*, the *Balaams*, the *Dorgs*, the *Rabshakhs*, the *Hannans*, the *Tobashes* and *Samballats* of our time, which done we are satisfied. Neither have we begun to use a military Expedition to *England* as a means for compassing those our pious ends, still all other means which we could think upon have failed us, and this alone is left to us as *ultimum remedium*, the last and only remedy.

V. *Let* Sixty if the Lord shall please us in this our Expedition, and our *mission* shall not be crossed by our own sinnes, and miscarriage, or by the opposition of the *English*, the *fruits* shall be sweet, and the effects comfortable to both Nations, to the Posterity, and to the reformed Kirkes abroad: *Servants* shall be commended as at the beginnings of the Reformation of *England* along prayer and pleaded for by the Godly there shall be according to their wishes and desires *persecuted* in *destruction*, *warship*, and *discipline*, *Papists*, *Prelats*, and all the members of the Antichristian Hierarchy, with their *Idolatry*, *Superstition*, and humane *innovations* shall pack them hence; the names of *Seas* and *Separatists* shall no more be mentioned, and the Lord shall be one, and his Name one throughout the whole *Island* which shall be glory to God, honour to the King, joy to the Kingdome, comfort to the posterity, example to other *Christian Kirkes*, and confession to the incorrigible enemies.

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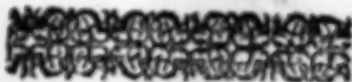
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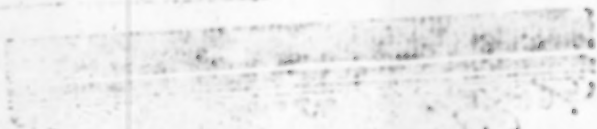
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I. As all men know and confesse, what is the great force of *necessity*, and how it doth justify actions otherwayes unwarrantable; So can it not be denyed, but we must either seek our peace in *England* at this time, or lye under three heavey *burthens*, which we are not able to beare. First, we must maintain Armies on the Borders, and all places nearest to hazard, for the defence and preservation of our Countrey, which by our laying down of Arms, and disbanding of our Forces

Should be quickly overtum'd by hostile Invasion; and the incursions of our enemies. Secondly, we shall want all Trade by Sea, which would not onely deprive the Kingdome of many necessities, but utterly undoe our Bourowes, Merchants, Mariners, and many others who live by Fishing and by commodities exported, and imported; and whose particular callings are utterly made voyd by want of ~~commerce~~ with other Nations and Sea-trade. Thirdly, the Subjects through the whole Kingdome shall want administration of Justice; and although this time past, the marvelous power and providence of GOD hath kepted the Kingdome in order and quietnesse without ordinary Judicatories sitting, yet cannot this be expected for afterward, but all shall turne to confusion. Any one of the three, much more all of them put together, threaten us with most certaine ruine, unless we speedily use the remedy of this Expedition. And this we say not from fear, but from feeling: For we have already felt to our unspeakable prejudice, what it is to want Ammunition, what to want Traffique, what to want administration of Justice, And if the beginning of those evils be so heavy, what shall the growth and long continuance of them prove unto us; So miserable a being, all men would judge to be worse then no being.

[1. If we consider the nature and quality of this Expedition, it is *desperate*, and so the more justifiable. For proofs hereof, let it be remembered: 1. The Kings Majesty misled by the crafty and cruel Persuasion of our adversaries, began this yeares warre, not warre. When Articles of *Peace* had been the other yeare agreed upon, Armes layd down, Forts and Castles rendered, an Assembly kept and concluded, with the presence and consent of his Majesties High Commissioner, the promised ratification thereof in Parliamēt (contrary to the foresaid Articles) was denyed unto us. And when we would have informed his Majesty by our Commissioners, of the Reasons and manner of our proceedings they got not so much as presence or audience. Thereafter his Majesty being content to heare them, before that they came to Court or were heard, warre was concluded against us at the Councell table of England, and a Commission given to the Earle of Northumberland for that effect: The Parliamēt of Ireland and England were also convocat for granting Subsidies unto this warre against us, as if no other plots have been hatched, and military preparations made against us; many invasions by Sea, which have spoiled

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enemies therefore are the authors and beginners of the warre,
and we defenders onely. 2. We intend not the hurt of others,
but our own *peace and preservation*, neither are we to offer any
injury or violence: And therefore have furnished our selves
according to our power with all necessaries, not to fight at all,
except we be forced to it in our own defence, as our *Declara-
tion* beareth. 3. We shall retire and lay down our Arms, as soon
as we shall get a sure *peace*, & shalbe satisfied in our *just demands*.
Upon which ground even some of those who would seem the
greatest Royalists, hold the warres of the Protestants in France
against the King and the Faction of the *Guisards* to have been
lawfull defensive wars, because they were ever ready to dis-
band and quiet themselves when they got assurance of *peace*,
and *liberty* of Religion. Now this present *Expedition* being in
the nature of it *defensive*, hence it appeareth, that it is not con-
trary, but consonant to our former *protestations*, *informations*,
and *remonstrances*: In all which, there is not one word against
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this yeare, though it accuseth all *offensive* or *unjust wars*, yet
sheweth plainly, that if we be invaded either by Sea or Land,
we must doe as a man that fighteth himselfe out of prison. Is
a private man when his house is blocked up, so that he can
have no liberty of commerce and traffique to supply himselfe
and his Family, being also in a continuall hazard of his life,
not knowing when he shall be assaulted by his enemies who
lie in wait against him, may in this case most lawfully step
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how shall one and the same way of *defence* and *liberation* be al-
lowed to a private man, and disallowed to a Nation?

III. Thirdly, we are called to this *Expedition* by that same
divine providence and *vocation* which hath guided us hitherto in
this great business. We see the Expediencie of it, for the glory
of God, for the good of the Church, for advancing the
Gospel, for our own *peace*, after seeking of God, and begging
light and direction from Heaven, our hearts are inclined to
it, God hath given us zeal and courage to prosecute it, ubi-
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And that we may see yet further evidences of a calling from *G O D* to this *usage*, we may observe the order of the *Lords* steps and proceedings in this Worke of *Reformation*. For, beginning at the grosse Popery of the Service Book, and Book of Canons, he hath followed the back trade of our defection, till he hath reformed the very first and smallest Novations, which entered in this Church. But so it is that this back trade leadeth yet further, to the Prelacy in *England*, the fountain; whence all those Babilonish streams issued unto us: The *Lord* therefore is still on the back trade, and we following him therein, can not yet be at a stay. Yea, we trust, that he shall so follow forth this trade, as to chase home the Beast and the *False* prophets to *Rome*, and from *Rome* out of the world. Besides, this third consideration resulteth from the former two; for if this *Expedition* be necessary, and if it be *defensive*, then it followeth inevitably, that we are called unto it, for our necessary *defense* is warranted, yea commanded by the Law of *G O D* and Nature, and we are obliged to it in our Covenant.

I.V. Fourthly, the lawfulness of this *Expedition* appeareth: if we consider the party against whom; which is not the Kingdome of *England*, but the *Caterlaine* Faction of *Papists*, *Atheists*, *Arminians*, *Presbiterians*, the misleaders of the Kings Majestie, and the common enemies of both Kingdomes. We perfwade our selves, that our Brethren and neighbours in *England* will never be so cyill advised, as to make themselves a party against us by their *defense* and patrociny of our enemies among

among them; as sometime the *Beniamites* made themselves
party against the *Israelites*, by defending the *Gileadites* in
their wicked cause, *Judg.* 20. We pray *GOD* to give them the
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neare to her City with an Army, found out a way which both
keept *Isab* from being an enemy to the City, and the City
from being an enemy to him, 2 *Sam.* 20. As touching the pro-
vision and Furniture of our Army in *England*, it shall be such
as is used among Friends, not among enemies: The rule of
humanity and *gratitude* will teach them to furnish us with ne-
cessaries, when as beside the procuring of our own peace, we
doe good offices to them. They detest (we know) the chur-
lishnes of *Nabal*, who refused victuals to *David* and his men,
who had done them good and no evil, 1 *Sam.* 26. And the
inhumanity of the men of *Succoth* and *Penniel*, who denied
bread to *Gileads* Army, when he was per suing the common
enemies of all *Israel*, *Judg.* 8. But let the *English* doe of their
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For our own part, our *Declaration* sheweth, that we seek not
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be refused (which we shall never expect) it were as damnable
as the barbarous cruelty of *Edom* and *Amal*, who refused to let
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and water in any case, *Num.* 20. *Judg.* 11: and this offence the
Lord accounted so inextinguishable, that for it he accursed the *Edo-
mites* and *Masbites* from entering into the Congregation of the
Lord unto the tenth generation, *Deut.* 23. 3, 4.

V. The Fifth consideration concerneth the end for which
this voyage is under-taken. We have attested the *searcher of
hearts*. It is not to execute any disloyall act against the Kings
Majesty, It is not to put forth a cruell or vindictive hand
against our adversaries in *England*, whom we desire only to be
judged and censured by their own Honourable and high Court
of Parliament; It is not to enrich our selves with the wealth
of *England*, nor to doe any harme thereto. But by the contrary,
we shall gladly bestow our paines and our means to doe them
all the good we can, which they might justly look for at our
hands, for the help which they made us at our *Reformation*,
in freeing us from the *French*, a bond of peace and love betwixt
them and us to all Generations. Our Conscience, and *GOD*
who is greater then our Conscience beareth us record, that
we ayme altogether at the glory of *GOD*, peace of both Nations,
and

and house of the King, in Lower-Saxony and elsewhere in the
north of the Low Countries, of which, the late King
of Spain, the King of Denmark, the Duke of Holstein, the
Duke of Mecklenburg, the Duke of Saxe, the Duke of
Hannover, the Duke of Brunswick, and the Duke of
Saxe-Weimar, are the lords and proprietors. We are satisfied
that we have not yet begun to see a military ex-
pulsion to England as a means for bringing about a
change. All other measures which we could think upon have
failed us, and this alone is left to us as a means of
achieving the just and only remedy.

V. A. Secondly, the Lord shall bless our Kingdom,
and our interests shall not be cooled by our own sinners, and
encouraged by the opposition of the English, the fruits shall
be sweet, and the effects comfortable to both Nations, to the
Posterity, and to the reformed Kirk abroad; Scotland shall
be reformed as at the beginning, the Reformation of England
long prayed and pleaded for by the Godly there, shall be ac-
cording to their wishes and desires, professed in their
and desires, Papists, Prelates, and all the members of the An-
tiquarian Hierarchy, with their Kings, Bishops, and
other Prelates, shall yield them hence, the names of Bishops
and Separatists shall no more be mentioned, and the Lord shall
be one, and his Name be throughout the whole Land, which
shall be given to God, honor to the King, as to the Kingdom,
and to the posterity, examples to other Christian Kingdoms,
and to the whole Christian world.

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